

Scientific Group Finds Anthrax Vaccine Safe, Effective

The current anthrax vaccine used by DoD is safe and effective in protecting against all forms of the deadly disease, according to the Institute of Medicine, a private, nonprofit scientific organization.

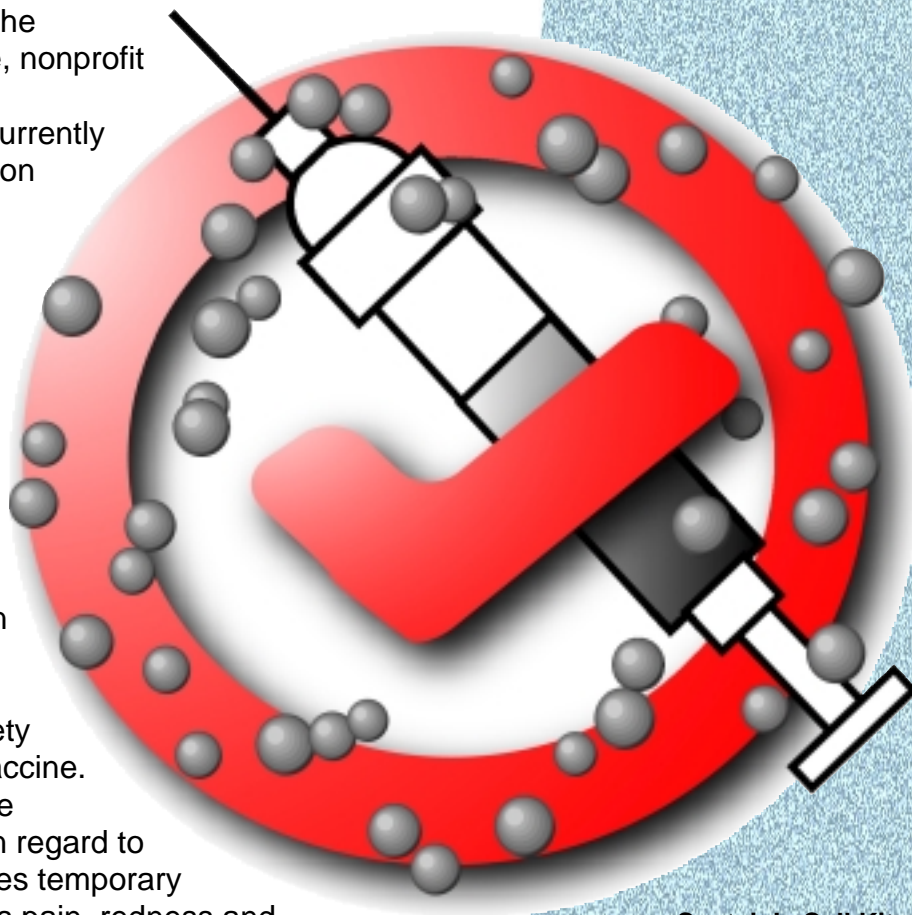
The vaccine, as the FDA currently licenses it, is effective protection against anthrax, including inhalation anthrax.

Biopart, the sole manufacturer of the vaccine, passed final FDA inspection recently and was licensed to produce more vaccine.

To address service members' concerns, Congress required DoD to seek an independent examination of the vaccination program. The Institute of Medicine convened the Committee to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of the Anthrax Vaccine.

The committee affirmed the vaccine is "reasonably safe" in regard to immediate reactions, and states temporary injection-site reactions such as pain, redness and swelling are fairly common but "are comparable to those observed with other vaccines regularly administered to adults."

The anthrax vaccine also doesn't seem any more dangerous in the long term than other vaccines, the group concludes.



For more information on the anthrax vaccine immunization program, go to
www.anthrax.osd.mil

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